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Easthampton's History

On June 17, 1785, Easthampton became a separate political entity in Massachusetts. The actual beginning of the community occurred a century earlier, while Easthampton was still a section of Northampton. On December 13, 1664, land was granted to John Webb, the first settler of European heritage. The next year, Webb began the process of establishing a community.

The community grew, as various settlers and saw mill operators took residence in the area near the Manhan River as well as in the Village of Pascommuck. Pascommuck, a Nipmuck word that means "where it bends", refers to the Ox-Bow area of the Connecticut River. The European community was under constant threat of attacks from Native Americans. On May 24, 1704, the Village of Pascommuck was attacked by a war party of some 72 Native Americans. 19 of the 38 villagers were killed.

Gradually, settlers returned to the villages of Pascommuck and the village near the Manhan River continued to grow.

Eventually, there were enough settlers to form a district, —an independent political entity separate from Northampton. In those days, a town was established in order to form a Meeting House, what we would call a Congregational Church today. In 1789, the first minister of the town was ordained. His name was Payson Williston.

By 1809, Easthampton changed its charter and become a town. This allowed the right to send a representative to the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Throughout the first haif of the 19th century, Easthampton was an agrarian community. The town was a close community of just a few families.

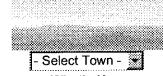
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What's New

What's new at Easthampton Guide- a list of recent updates, additions, and features have been fisted below.

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One of the highlights of this time was the establishment of Williston Seminary, The Seminary is now the Williston Northampton School, a prep school.

A major change in the town's economy occurred in 1847. Samuel Williston, son of the town's first minister, established a new company. The Williston-Knight Button Company became the first mill to open in Easthampton. This signaled the beginning of the first phase of Easthampton's industrial development.

### Local Links

Manhan Rail Trail | Easthampton Police Easthampton High School | Yellow Paces | Maps | Directions

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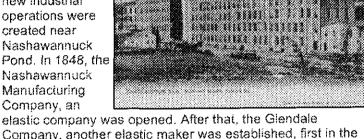
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Following the success of this venture, several new industrial operations were created near Nashawannuck Pond. In 1848, the Nashawannuck Manufacturing Company, an



Company, another elastic maker was established, first in the village of Giendale, and then in Easthampton. The Easthampton Rubber Thread was created to make rubber fabric. The George Colton Elastic Mill became the third maker. At the lower millpond, the Williston Mills were incorporated to manufacture cloth from cotton.

Many new residents moved to town to seek employment at the mills. Several social changes occurred as the town's population grew. The first high school was established in 1864. The first national bank began the same year. The Easthampton Savings Bank was established in 1869. A modern town hall was dedicated in 1869. This building still serves as the seat of government today by 1871, the railroads began to make regular scheduled runs through town. The public library was established in 1881. Streetcars began operating in 1895, the same year as the telephone system began. More importantly, new churches were established as a second Congregational Church was followed by Methodists, Episcopalians, Lutherans and the first Catholic Parish.

By 1899, the economic and social fabric of the town underwent major changes. Two major employers moved to Easthampton. One company, the West Boylston Manufacturing Company produced cloth from cotton, while the

second company, the Hampton Company, processed cloth by dying, mercenzing, or bleaching cloth. These companies recruited many new residents to town, including French-Canadians and Polish. The West Boylston built three model mill villages for their employees.

Another major change occurred in 1912, when Glendale purchased the Mashawannuck Company. All the local mills were able to secure federal war contracts during World War I, and prospered.

Following the war, the town faced difficulties in adjusting to the post war economy. The West Boyiston laid off many employees, lost contracts, and by 1927, began looking for a buyer for their mills. They also began a Montgomery Naben and finally closed Easthampton in 1931.

The Mashawannuck Pond industries also faced uncertainties. The Williston Knight Button Company, then known as the United Button Company, closed in 1922. In 1927, The Glendale and the Colton, after years of competition, decided to merge with the Consnt-Houghton mills of Littleton and Lowell, formed the United Elastic Corporation, with the Easthampton Rubber Thread became a subsidiary of the United Elastic.

The post World War I depression hit Easthampion early and hard. Many left town at that time, seeking employment elsewhere, as several mills, especially the former West Boylston, stood empty for years.

A third economic boom came with World War II, as defense contracts were awarded to several local industries. Cardanic, G.E., Textron, and Campagna Corporation, a maker of prefab housing for the European War Theatre all set up mills in Easihampton. Both the United Elastic and the Hampton also obtained war contracts.

This boom confinued after the war. Stanley Home Products arrived in 1947, and with their Stanley Home Parties, offered many jobs for local employees. A new trend began at this time, as many began using their cars in order to take Jobs out

Of fown.

The end of this economic prosperity began in 1962, as the Hampton Company closed. By 1971, the Clendale division of

the United Elastic closed. In 1995, Stanley Home Products also closed.

Yet the town continues to adopt and grow. In the early 1970s, in the "Plains" section of town, a major sub-division was built off Plain street. In the O'Neil Street industrial park, Tubed Products constructed a major mill and employed several hundred.

In 1996, the town of Easthampton took the first step in becoming a city as a new charter was passed and a mayor became the chief executive. Three years later, Easthampton officially became a city and looks toward the 21st century with renewed optimism.

History provided by Edward Dwyer

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### **Public Servants**

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Highway Department



# **Mount Tom State Reservation**

Christopher Clark Road, Easthampton, MA (413) 527-4805 or 534-1186 Mailing: PO Box 985, Northampton, MA 01060

- \_
- Hours and Fees
- Map
- Other Information

· About the Reservation

Click on your Choice

# About the Reservation:

Superintendent - Russell J. Bardwell

The Mount Tom Reservation is over 1,800 acres of land, with 20 miles of hiking trails, fishing, picnicking (no fee), a lake to canoe on, cross country skiing, 2 observation towers, 5 senic vistas, and a new handicapped accessible hiking trail along the lake with an accessible fishing pier.

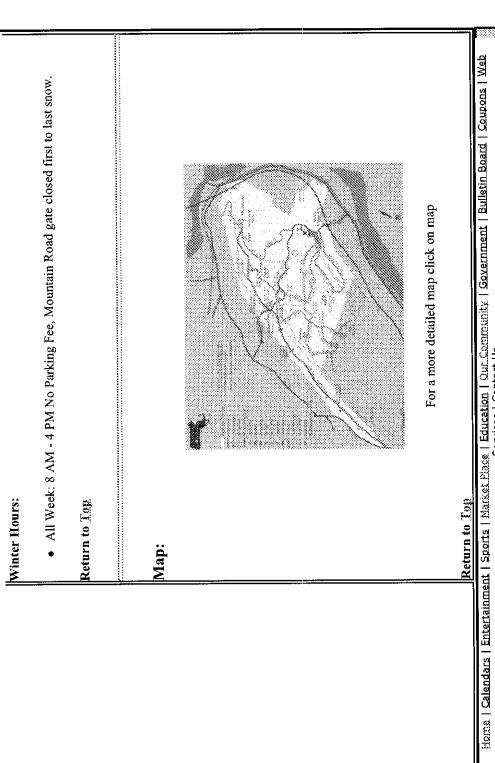
# Hours:

### Summer:

- Monday Friday: 8 AM 8 PM No Parking Fee
- Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays: 8 AM 8 PM, Parking Fee \$2.<sup>∞</sup> per vehicle

# Spring and Fall:

• Hours vary, call for more information



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Division of State Parks and Recreation

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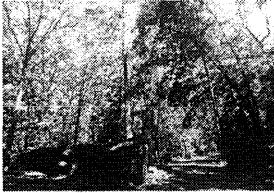
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# Mt. Tom State Reservation

125 Reservation Rd., Rte. 5 Holyoke, MA 01040 413 534-1186

Mt. Tom boasts an unparalleled view of the Connecticut Valley north and south, the Berkshire mountains to the west and the Pelham hills to the east. This 1,800 acre facility offers



Mount Tom State Reservation

20 miles of hiking and walking trails; picnicking; canoeing and fishing on Lake Bray; and cross country skiing and ice skating in the winter. Mt. Tom also offers a children's play area.

Today the Reservation includes about 47 of the 80 tree species found naturally in Hampshire County. Mt. Tom is one of the premier hawk watching spots in New England. Each fall, thousands of hawks and other birds fly past the mountain.

# Trail Map

Click here to view trail map

# Park Directions

Mount Tom State Reservation is located in Easthampton/Holyoke, in the western part of central Massachusetts.

### Easthampton entrance

From the south: Rte. 91 north, take exit #17-B, go 4 miles on Rte 141 west. Reservation entrance is on the right.

From the north: Rte. 91 south, take exit #18, onto Rte 5 south about 1.5 miles, right on to East St. for 3 miles, left onto 141 East (up the hill), reservation entrance on your left.

### RECREATIONAL **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Accessible Fishing
- Accessible Hiking Trails
- Accessible Vista
- Accessible Restrooms
- Canoeing
- Group Day Use
- Picnicking
- Skiing (Cross-Country)
- Visitors Center
- Walking Trails
- Connecticut River Greenway State Park
- Mt. Holyoke Range State Park
- Holyoke Heritage State <u>Park</u>

Get Current Weather

Holyoke entrance From the south: Rte. 91 north, take exit #17-A to Rte. 5 north. Travel 4 miles, reservation entrance is on your left. From the north: Rte. 91 south, take exit #18 to Rte. 5 south. Travel 4 miles, entrance is on your right

251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston MA 02114-2104 Tet: 617 626-1250

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# **Nonotuck Park**

Easthampton, MA

Edward Piziak, Jr.

Director of Parks and Recreation
Daley Field Road Easthampton, MA 01027
(413) 529-1440

Click Here or on the Map for a Larger view

- · About Nonetuck Park
- How to Get There
- Vehicle Passes
- Pool Information
- Picnic/Pavilion Sites
- Summer Day Camp
- Mountain Bike Racing Series
- Special Events

Click on your Choice

# About Nonotuck Park:

Nonotuck Park is a 185 acre park located in the heart of Easthampton. Used for active or passive recreation, the park offers activities for all to enjoy. The park is open from mid-April until the end of

September and operates daily from 8 AM until dark. Facilities at Nonotuck Park include:

- A beach sand volleyball court
- An outdoor pool
- Thirty-six picnic sites
- Four picnic pavilions
- Seven softball diamonds
- Two children's playgrounds
- · Three clay court tennis courts
- An outdoor basketball court
- Fishing at Nashawannuck Pond
- The Toteman Nature Trail
- · Bicycle paths
- three bocce courts

Nonotuck Park is also home to a <u>summer day camp</u> for children aged 6-13, swimming lesson programs, a mountain bike racing series, the Massachusetts Special Olympics, and the <u>Caouette Softball Tournament</u>, as well as local baseball and softball team games and tournaments and the Fourth of July fireworks celebrations. The Toteman Nature Trail winds around the perimeter of the park for enjoyment, nature study, bird watching, and relaxation. Recreation equipment may be rented from the cashier -- items like boccee balls, basketballs, volleyballs, volleyball nets, and baseball equipment -- for use within the park.

### Other Facts About Nonotuck Park

- The Park does not allow horses on the property, but dogs on leashes are permitted.
- Softball fields are used by leagues during the week, but are available for park patrons' use on the weekends.
- Park Security Officers are available during park hours for assistance or to answer any patrons' questions Emergency first aid treatment available at the swimming pool
- Telephones are located at the pool and the refreshment booth. Park Security Officers also carry walkie-talkie units which link directly to 911
- Fishing licenses are required by the state of Massachusetts to fish at the park's Nashawannuck Pond. Licenses may be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office in City Hall, 43 Main Street.

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# How to get there:

From the intersection of Union & Cottage Streets (Route 141) & Payson & Williston Avenues, take Williston Avenue (there are signs pointing to Easthampton High School) you will pass by the high school. The road takes a sharp right turn and the name changes to Lownds Avenue. Follow Lownds there is a gate abruptly across the road, this gate is the entrance to Nonotuck Park. The Road here changes in name to Daley Field Road.

# Vehicle Passes:

Season vehicle passes for Nonotuck Park are being sold at the Parks and Recreation Department office located on Daley Field weekdays from 8 AM - 4 PM. Passes may also be purchased at the entrance booth. Season pass costs for:

- o Easthampton Residents and nonresidents is \$6 for the first car and \$4 for an additional vehicle
- O Senior Citizens receive a 10% discount
- O Vehicles with Handicapped plates are not charged a fee

Day vehicle passes may also be purchased at the park's entrance booth from 8 AM to 8 PM. Day use passes are \$1 on weekdays and \$2 on weekends.

It is recommended that the Park users purchase their passes soon to avoid delays at the entrance on busy days. Nonotuck Park is open daily, in season, from 8 AM until dark. Nonotuck Park remains open from mid-April until the end of September.

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# **Pool Information:**

The pool opens in mid-June and remains open through Labor Day. The Olympic size pool sports two diving boards and three certified lifeguards who are on duty during the pool operating hours, Noon until 7 PM seven days a week. The outdoor pool is closed on rainy days. Fees for pool use are:

One Time Admission: \$1.50 per child and \$3.00 per adult Season Pass: \$30.00 per child; \$40.00 per adult; \$80.00 per family (generally defined as five people who all reside in the same household).

Swimming lessons are held in July and August with lessons taught in two-week cycles. A two-week program consists of 8 lessons, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of each week, each 45 minutes in length. Fees for the eight lesson session are \$30.00. Classes times are 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:15 PM with three different categories of lessons taught at each session: Beginner,

Advanced Beginner, and Intermediate.

All classes are taught by certified lifeguards and class sizes are limited.

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# Picnic Sites and Pavilion Use:

The thirty six picnic sites are available weekdays for no charge; however, weekend picnic areas cost \$3.00. Each site sports two picnic tables and a cooking grill and sites may be booked the day of the picnic

Pavilion costs are \$100.00 per day for either weekday or weekend use. Reservations are required and bookings begin on March 2nd. Pavilions rent quickly on weekends, so early booking is recommended. There are four pavilions at Nonotuck Park, with the following equipment: Pavilion #1 Has a fireplace with two barbecues and two cooking grills Pavilion #2 Contains a six foot long covered barbecue with a cooking grill Pavilion #3 Has two six foot long barbecues with cooking grills Pavilion #4 Contains a six foot long covered barbecue with a cooking grill

All pavilions are supplied with electricity and water and rest rooms are within walking distance. Pavilion #1 and #3 rental requires you to furnish light bulbs; pavilion #2 and #4 are furnished with lights built into the ceiling.

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# Summer Day Camp, Camp Nonotuck

Camp Nonotuck is a nine week program which begins the first Monday after school ends, June 26. The day camp operates 9 AM to 3 PM weekdays and extended hours (8 AM - 4 PM) are available at an additional fee; the fee includes a field trip each week. Camp Nonotuck is an outdoor camp and if inclement weather occurs, campers use the Easthampton High School for camping activities. The camp is a five day a week program and no three to four day a week rates are available.

Camp Nonotuck is a structured camp where every hour has activities charted out for campers to participate in with a weekly theme. These activities are listed inside the Parks and Recreation office each week for campers and parents. The camp is divided by age; there is a 6-9 year old camp (Pavilion 2) and a 10-14 year old camp (Pavilion 3), the junior camp is limited to 80 campers a week and the senior camp to 65 campers. There are four councilors and one head councilor as well as a camp director and arts and crafts director plus several volunteers to provide direction to the campers.

Activities usually include field trips. This year's field trips are not set yet, but will reflect much of the previous years trips. Daily activities include arts and crafts, sports contests, entertainment programs (storytellers and magic acts), bicycle safety instruction, and swimming. The State Police bring in their mounted horse units and the Easthampton Fire Department and the Easthampton Police Department talk about fire safety. For the older camp, aged 10-14, the Easthampton and the Sate Police departments will conduct a drug education program. Swimming is offered each day, so bathing suits and towel are necessities. Lunches need to be provided from home and there usually is an end of camp wrap up picnic for all campers.

Registration begins Wednesday May 31 from 2:30 - 5:30 PM; Thursday June 1 & Friday June 2 2:30 - 8 PM @ the Easthampton Park & Rec. Office. And will continue throughout the remainder of June weekdays 8 AM - 4 PM. For more information, please call 529-1440. Campers may be signed up for as many weeks as desitred, and are served on a first come, first served basis until all openings are filled. We do keep waiting lists for all weeks. Please be prepared to make at least one week's advance payment at registration.. Cost is \$60 per camper per weekly session, later payments may be made on a week to week basis. Checks and money orders only, no cash will be taken. Weekly field trips will be announced at registration.

# The Nine Weekly Sessions to be held are as follows:

Week #1	June 26-30
Week #2	July 3-7 - camp will be held on July 4
	<u> </u>
Week #3	July 10 -14
Week #4	July 17-21 - senior camp out #1
Week #5	July 24-28
Week #6	July 31-August 4
Week #7	August 7-11
Week #8	August 14-18 - senior camp out #2
Week #9	August 21-25

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# Mountain Bike Racing Series:

Thursday Nights - 6 PM @ Nonotuck Park \$6 - 3 mile loop - call 538 - 7862 or 529 - 1460 or 529 - 1440 for more information - sponsored by Parks & Rec. Department & Competitive Edge Ski &

Bike Shop.
Special Events:
Fireworks Program - June 24, 2000 The Parks and Recreation Department coordinates a fireworks program with other local agencies. 12,000 to 15,000 people usually attend this event, and enjoy the fireworks display, listen to live music, and sample food from various booths set up especially for this event. Festivities begin at 3 PM with musical performances and fireworks start about 9:15 PM.
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